

Serial No. 10/790,964  
67,167-002; 5863-03

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The A lock assembly comprising: as recited in claim 8, wherein~~  
a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement  
feature extending from said housing and a housing retainer groove;  
a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis; and  
a retainer having a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first  
leg and said second leg, said bridge portion having an aperture located there through, said  
retainer engageable with said housing retainer groove at an angle not perpendicular to said axis  
to initially pass over said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing during  
insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove and said core assembly transverse  
said axis to retain said core assembly within said housing said retainer engagement feature is  
engageable with said aperture to retain said retainer within said housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The lock assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said retainer engagement feature comprises an angled detent.

11.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A front loading lock assembly comprising: as recited in claim~~  
~~14,~~  
a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement  
feature extending from said housing;

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a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis, said core assembly comprising a flange which engages said housing to locate said core assembly at a predetermined distance along said axis; and

a retainer having a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, said bridge portion having an aperture located there through, said retainer engageable with said housing and said core assembly to retain said core assembly within said housing, said retainer receivable with a housing retainer groove at an angle not perpendicular to said axis to initially pass over said retainer engagement feature during insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove transverse said axis wherein said retainer engagement feature is engageable with said aperture to retain said retainer within said housing.

16. (Previously Presented) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein said retainer engagement feature comprises an angled detent.

17.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, of mounting a core assembly within a housing of a lock assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting the core assembly within a bore in the housing along an axis;
- (b) aligning a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove;
- (c) inserting a retainer into the housing retainer groove to initially pass over a retainer engagement feature extending from the housing during insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove and the core assembly retainer groove transverse the axis; and

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(d) ~~selectively securing the retainer to the housing by wherein said step (d) further comprises:~~ biasing an engagement detent extending from the housing at least partially through an aperture in the retainer.

20. (Canceled)

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A lock assembly comprising:

a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature;  
a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis; and

a retainer engageable with said housing and said core assembly transverse said axis to retain said core assembly within said housing, said retainer includes a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, said bridge portion including an aperture engageable with said retainer engagement feature to retain said retainer within said housing.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A front-loading lock assembly comprising:

a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature;

a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis, said core assembly comprising a flange which engages said housing to locate said core assembly at a predetermined distance along said axis; and

a U-shaped retainer engageable with said housing and said core assembly to retain said core assembly within said housing, said retainer receivable with a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove transverse said axis, said retainer includes a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, said bridge portion including an aperture engageable with said retainer engagement feature to retain said retainer within said housing.

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23. (Canceled)

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of mounting a core assembly within a housing of a lock assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting the core assembly within a bore in the housing along an axis;
- (b) aligning a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove;
- (c) inserting a retainer into the housing retainer groove and the core assembly retainer groove transverse the axis; and
- (d) selectively securing the retainer to the housing by biasing an engagement detent extending from the housing at least partially through an aperture in the retainer.

25.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The A lock assembly as recited in claim 1, comprising:~~  
a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature extending from said housing and a housing retainer groove, wherein said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing extends parallel to said axis;  
a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis; and  
a retainer engageable with said housing retainer groove to initially pass over said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing during insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove and said core assembly transverse said axis to retain said core assembly within said housing.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The A front-loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, comprising:~~